

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 9-43 are pending in this application. All of the pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Aravamudan. Claims 1, 13 and 22 are currently amended. Support for the claim amendments is in the Specification at page 6, second paragraph. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 13 and 22 as amended distinguish Aravamudan because, in addition to detecting presence across different networks and device types, and selecting a device on which to contact the watched party, the invention filters attempts to contact the watched party based at least in part on the identity of the watching party and the device type on which the watched party would be contacted. As discussed in the Specification, the watched party may set up rules about who may contact the watched party, at what times, how often, how often during particular times, and in what mode of communication a particular watching party may contact the watched party.¹ This feature is recited in claim 1 as “determining whether to permit the watching party to contact the watched party based at least in-part on which type of device is the active device and identity of the watching party.” Claims 13 and 22 recite similar language. Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 9-12, 14-21 and 23-43 are dependent claims which further distinguish the invention, and which are allowable for the same reasons discussed above with regard to their respective independent claims. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 9-43 is therefore requested.

¹ Page 6, lines 25-27

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-4001 (X305) to discuss any matters which might expedite allowance of this application.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

/Holmes W. Anderson/

Holmes W. Anderson, Reg. No. 37,272

Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)

McGuinness & Manaras LLP

125 Nagog Park

Acton, MA 01720

(978) 264-6664

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